

Gc
974.802
Ea7b
2036166

M. L.

REYNOLDS HISTORICAL
GENEALOGY COLLECTION

ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



3 1833 02223 8338

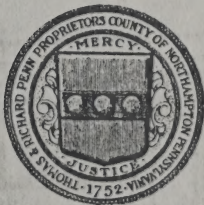
1162 m 11 10 v v v v v v v v v v
2038166

THE HISTORY WITH
REMINISCENCES OF THE EARLY TAVERNS
AND INNS OF EASTON

by

FLOYD S. BIXLER

*Corresponding Secretary of the Northampton County
Historical and Genealogical Society*



Paper read before the Northampton County Historical Society at
the St. Crispin Anniversary Dinner at the Lafayette Hotel (formerly
Opp's Tavern) on October 25, 1930.

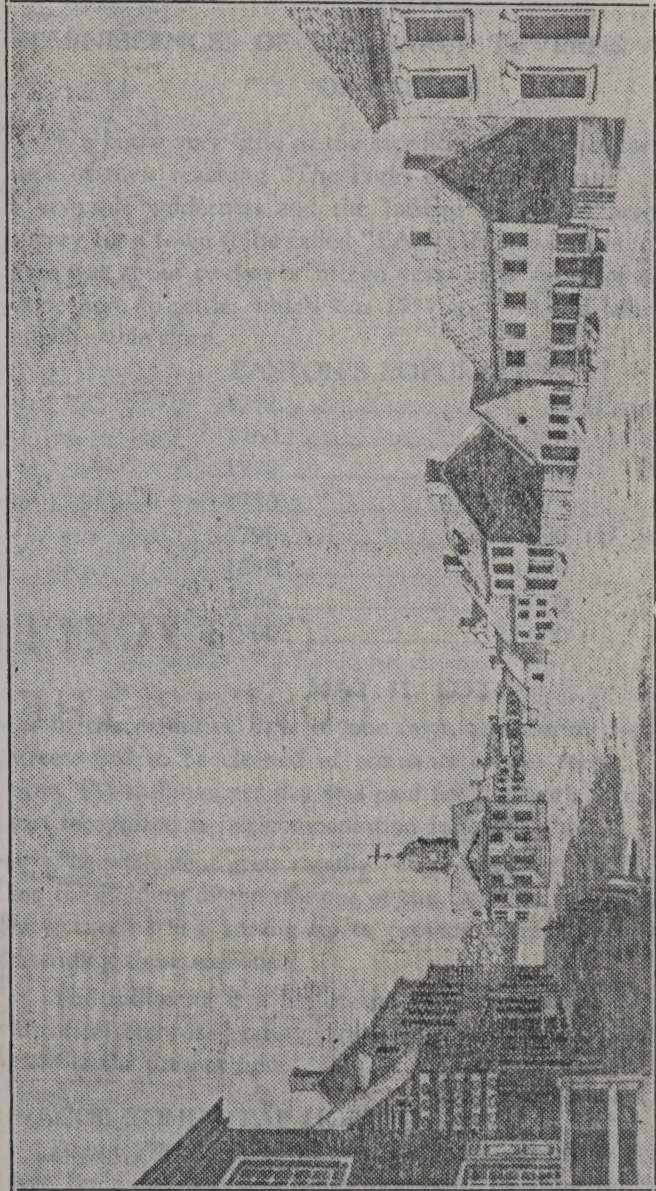
Printed by
The Northampton County Historical and Genealogical Society
Easton, Pennsylvania
1931

034

79 8607 11

2036166

THE HISTORY



NORTHAMPTON STREET IN 1798, LOOKING EAST FROM OPP'S TAVERN

—From an old print in possession of Floyd S. Bixler

Recd Mar 19-1979

THE HISTORY WITH REMINISCENCES OF THE EARLY TAVERNS AND INNS OF EASTON

We know very little of the sacrifices of our ancestors during the time of their reaching "The Forks of the Delaware", when it was a veritable wilderness and the Indians their only neighbors. The survey for a town to be called "EASTON" was made in 1752. This date was about twelve or fifteen years after many of our ancestors came here to settle, which was 1737 to 1740 and later—an almost unbelievable story.

EASTON'S POPULATION

1752.....	30	(Estimated)
1760.....	150	"
1770.....	350	"
1780.....	475	"
1790.....	600	(U. S. Census)
1850.....	6,000	"
1860.....	9,000	"
1900.....	25,000	"

MAY 11, 1752

In the primitive days of our town and during its infancy, the streets had to be cleaned of remnants of the forest. The sum of three (3) shillings per day was paid for the work, which our ancestors recognized as fair compensation for their labor.

The settlement grew rapidly. Log houses were built, and following the holding of the sessions of the Court in this pioneer community, taverns first sprang up to provide accommodations for those attending these sessions.

The following is a list of the hotels known to the writer thro historical records, hearsay, and personal knowledge, from the year 1755 to the present time.

"JACOB YOHE'S TAP HOUSE"

About 1785, the site was on the south end of the present "Pomfret Building",—a very small one-story building on South Third Street.

We recall Salty Fleming's Tap House in the late 1840's and later. He succeeded Jacob Yohe. It was always known as a free and easy place to meet friendly spirits, social and alcoholic, I suppose.

"BULL'S HEAD TAVERN"

Founded in the very early years of Easton. Peter Nungessor was the landlord, whose wife, Sarah, was one of the daughters of Robert Traill. Their tavern was the great meeting place for the people and farmers of Williams Township. An ample courtyard furnished plenty of room for the market wagons, large and small. Mr. and Mrs. Nungessor enjoyed a reputation for the cordial treatment of their patrons from all sections. They sold good liquor, and fine meals.

John Dilts was at one time its proprietor. It was then called "THE UNION HOUSE",—1860 to 1885. At a later period under the management of _____, the name was changed again to "UNICORN TAVERN". During the later years of the old tavern, it was again called the "BULL'S HEAD", while it was constantly changing landlords.

"MERCHANTS' HOTEL"

This hotel was part of the Moravians' House, one of the oldest in Easton. Early in our history it was on the west side of Pomfret Street (now Third Street), a short distance south of Ferry Street, and on the corner of a narrow alley.

It was John Bachman's tavern, built in 1763 by John Oakely. Mr. Nungessor's widow later rented it from Colonel Weiss. Peter Bellis was a late landlord, when it was known as the "WASHINGTON HOTEL". Still later a Mr. Bidleman was trying his hand at it. Fred Lerch used the building for carriage work, and as sales-rooms.

It is recalled that a painted life-size colored picture of George Washington was used as a sign. It was on the top of a heavy post, that stood on the side or curb line of the pavement. In 1831, Melchior Horn, Jr., succeeded R. M. Lattimore as the proprietor of the tavern. His father was Melchior Horn, Sr., who at one time resided on the east side of Sitgreaves Street, near Ferry. His brick house is still standing. The present Mayor of Easton, Samuel S. Horn, is a grandson of the elder Melchior Horn.

"PINE TREE TAVERN"

About 1850, the site was at Butler Street near Twelfth Street. Riley Smith was owner and proprietor.

It was a well-known tavern for a sporting class of people. Mr. Smith was a fine horseman. He owned a number of good racers, all high grade horses. His tavern was the headquarters for racing sports of the time. Fine liquor was always on tap. **Butler Street** was the race track. It was at the junction of Walnut Street (then the Bethlehem Road) and Wolf Street (then Green Lane), the starting point for the race, which ended at the point now occupied by the "FOREST HOUSE HOTEL". These races were a wonderful attraction for the people of the surrounding country, and brought crowds to the tavern, which was then far westward in the country. Mr. Smith was a good-hearted man, and knew how to run a tavern of its kind, and for the period. Mr. Smith appeared everywhere in the great crowds of spectators on such occasions, and what a harvest it must have been for him. When death overtook him, he left a good size estate.

The Annual Exhibition mentioned above was always spectacular, and is within the memory of the writer.

"STAR HOTEL"

In 1874, the site was at Walnut Street, near Ferry Street (north side). Jacob Snyder was the proprietor.

"CLIFTON HOTEL"

In 1879, the site was at Northampton and Twelfth Streets. Samuel Heckman was the proprietor.

TITLE NOT KNOWN

Site was at West Northampton Street, corner of Locust Street. Peter Schleicher, an upright man, was the proprietor.

Very early in our history there was a "TAVERN" at the northwest corner of Juliana Street (now Fifth Street) and Northampton Street. The original stone building is standing on this corner.

In 1830, or a little later, it became the printing establishment of Samuel Siegfried, grandfather of the late Henry Siegfried, Cashier of the Easton National Bank.

"MOUNT VERNON HOTEL"

Site was at Northampton and Sixth Streets (southeast corner of John Street).

There are no data and no particulars, but it is very old, and was in the country at that time. It was doing business at a period when Northampton Street was only a country road, and open only to Juliana Street (Fifth Street).

"BOATMAN'S AND FERRY TAVERN"

In 1830, the site was at the corner of Washington and Pomfret Streets (now South Third Street). Isaac ——— was the proprietor. John Buck and John Shock were the proprietors at later dates.

The Town Well for water supply was located there.

"HOTEL" (BOATMEN AND LUMBERMEN)

Very old. From 1790 to about 1850, the site was at Hamilton Street (now South Fourth Street), midway between Lehigh and Washington Streets.

There are no data as to the title or the proprietor's name.

"HOTEL" (BOATMEN)

Site was at the southwest corner of Lehigh and Pomfret Streets (now South Third Street), the present site of an automobile service station.

William Diehl was the proprietor, and later on John Brotzman became the proprietor.

There were a town pump and well located there for water supply.

"WESTERN HOTEL"

Location of this Tavern we are unable to ascertain. We know nothing of its history.

A great resort for Germans of the 1850-1870 period was situated on Walnut Street, near Ferry Street.

John Peihl was proprietor from 1850 to 1863. Principally German beer was sold at this tavern.

"RED ONION" and **SEVERAL OTHERS**, of which we recall very little. Sites were on West Canal Street, South Easton.

"KEYSTONE HOTEL"

No date, quite old. Site was at Hamilton (now Fourth) Street, corner of Bushkill Street.

Mr. ——— Kern was the proprietor at one time. The names of other proprietors are not known.

There is little known of its early history.

In Williamsport (Snufftown) (Old Virginia), there were not less than two hotels. During the building of the Delaware Canal, they were the resort of the workmen for entertainment and plenty of liquor to quench their thirst. Very little is known of their history.

"NICHOLAS' TAVERN"

About 1780, or perhaps earlier, the site was at the northeast corner of Ferry Street and Fermor Street (now Second Street). John Nickolas was the proprietor.

It was a favorite place for the early Moravians as a resort. It was on the early trail, easy of access, for the Monocacy Creek people. This trail later became the Road to Martin's Ferry and its tavern, at the point of the Delaware and Lehigh Rivers. Ferry Street was the only road that led westward from Easton at that time, and was, at a later period, called Ferry Road. That was prior to 1768. New Jersey patronized the "NICKOLAS TAVERN", and found wares there to satisfy their thirst and other needs. A town pump for well water was still at the corner of the two streets within the memory of the writer.

"MAMMIE MOORE'S FERRY HOTEL"

Date very early. A low old stone building. Located on the present site of the east portion of Sherer Bros. large store building on East Northampton Street. About 1840 to 1865, it was a coffee house and lunch room.

"MARTIN'S TAVERN AND FERRY HOUSE"

In existence about 1742. Some Historians make it as early as 1739. About 1742, David Martin applied to the Court at Doylestown for a more liberal license, as it would help him to do a larger business with the Moravians, as they were fond of good liquor and plenty of it. —(M. S. Henry) (Unpublished Manuscript)

In 1762, Nathaniel Vernon was the proprietor; later Daniel Brodhead, and then Lewis Gordon. In 1782, Squire Jacob Able became the owner and proprietor. During the days of our early settlement, the Indians were great patrons on account of the good liquor they found at the old Tavern of David Martin. A large patronage was from the Moravian Settlement.

"NUBBY SHULES TAVERN"

Very many years ago the site was at the corner of Green and Ferry Streets, near "The Point". Supposed to be on the site of Seitz's old Malt house, since altered and now occupied by W. A. Tydeman's Electric Supplies Store. It was a popular tavern.

"HOTEL FOR BOATMEN AND RAFTSMEN"

About 1817, the site was at Green and Northampton Streets.

Daniel Swander was the proprietor, and Joseph Howell, owner. Later Nippy Hartpence became the proprietor, and then eventually Skenk Field. Still later it was operated by Robert Gerver and so improved as to be classed as a modern hotel. About this time, Mr. Gerver obtained title to the property, after which time it changed the name to

"THE GERVER HOUSE"

Robert Gerver was the owner. After his death, the Williams Brothers ran it most successfully.

"DADDY HEMPT"

Early in our history, about 1770, it was a small log house at the northeast corner of Pine and Sitgreaves Streets, in the rear of John Dawes' Cabinet and Furniture Shop, which was in existence during the 1830's. Here a great deal of beautiful Colonial furniture was made. Today, this same type of furniture is greatly admired. Pieces made by Mr. Dawes are rare and of great value.

This tavern was torn down about 1810.

"DELAWARE HOTEL"

About 1814, the site was at Spring Garden and Front Streets.

In its time, it was a great resort for Durham boatmen and raftsmen and provided good meals, good drinks, and good lodging.

Christ Hartzell was the proprietor, and then David Stem became the proprietor for many years, and later, Thomas Keller. In Mr. Keller's time it was a good hotel. A heavy wooden pump furnished good water for the neighborhood from a well in front of the tavern.

"LEHIGH HOTEL"

During the 1840's and 1850's, the site was at Lehigh and Pomfret Streets (now South Third Street)—northeast corner. Located on the present site of M. Kowitz's Furniture Store.

Later became the "AMERICAN HOTEL". There were several landlords. John Folk was a proprietor at a later date.

"LOG TAVERN" and "FERRY HOUSE"

Was in existence very early in the history of the "Forks of the Delaware". Site was on South Sitgreaves Street, in the rear of 126 and 128 Third Street. Demolished about four years ago.

See Mrs. Elizabeth L. Myers of Bethlehem, and Mrs. Dr. ——— Martin, Allentown, Pa., (daughter of Dr. Henry Detwiller) for its history in more detail.

"MOTT'S TAVERN"

Site was at Fermor (now Second) and Northampton Streets, now the Doggie and Lunch Restaurant, with a tailor shop on the second floor.

Edward Mott was the proprietor and owner at a very early date. Some time later Jacob Bachman was in charge as the proprietor. During the proprietorship of Mr. Bachman, we have the following scrap of history:

"Courts were frequently held at the house of Jacob Bachman. On February 19, 1745, an order was drawn for six pounds in his favor for one year's use, for Court and Election uses".

If the above is correct, "MOTT'S TAVERN" must have been in existence some time prior to 1744.

The Historical Society has, in its collection of relics, an old iron hearth dated 1761, supposed to have been cast by the Durham Iron Works, which was in operation some years before the Revolutionary War. The placing of this hearth in the front room of this Tavern in 1761 indicates that it was an old building, needing repairs and improvements to keep proper pace with possibly increasing business

and developments generally. These circumstances go to support the records of 1744 and the prior years in reckoning the age of the old "Mott" Tavern. The writer assisted in removing this hearth from the little room in this tavern about ten years ago. The fact of its having been used in this tavern enhances the historical value of the relic, and goes toward fixing the great age of this Inn.

"SHANNON'S TAVERN"

Site was on the northwest corner of Fermor (now Second Street) and Northampton Streets. Theophilus Shannon was the proprietor.

Mr. Shannon bought the lot in 1779, on which he built a stone stable, and then, later, a building for his tavern, immediately westward, across the street from "Mott's Tavern".

"TAVERN"

Mr. ——— Erb was the proprietor. Site was on the west side of the Public Square, facing east, on the site of the present Jones Drug Store. He did a thriving business with the farmers.

The yard for wagons, etc., for country customers adjoined a large opening on Pine Street. A town pump supplied the "TAVERN" with well water.

During 1765, or thereabout, "JOHN ARNDT" was the proprietor of a hotel on the site of the present Easton National Bank, Bank and Northampton Streets. The title of the hotel is at present not known. It was a great resort at one time for the Philadelphians. Mr. ——— Gulick and "Chippy" White were the proprietors at a later date.

It was among the very early taverns, and was soon one of great popularity. A Mr. Gulick was Mr. Arndt's assistant. The business justified some additional help, so when he heard of a young man at Ross Commons, Pa., by the name of White, who was highly spoken of, Mr. Arndt hired him as second assistant. The young man proved to be a great success.

The patronage at once grew rapidly. Patrons in great numbers appeared, so that the overflow used several spare rooms in the improvised tavern just across the alley, later called Bank Street.

George Barnet, the ancestor of several families now living in Easton, who was the owner of the property, converted it into this tav-

ern, which covered about thirty-five (35) feet of the site of the present Laubach Department Store, facing on Northampton Street. Mr. Barnet, no doubt, was impressed with the fact that a great many people from Philadelphia spent much of their time during certain seasons in this romantic and naturally beautiful outlying resort, just on the very edge of civilization at that early time. Naturally, he thought here was an opportunity to better his condition. Consequently, the new tavern came into fine play. Not only his personal interests were improved by a share of the patronage which was brought by the incoming stages, but he was in a position to accommodate his neighbor, John Arndt, in providing rooms for his overflow of patrons. This increased to the extent that it became necessary for Mr. Barnet to obtain the consent of Michael Odenwelder, his son-in-law, his next door neighbor on the west side, to cut a doorway through the wall for a passage into his home, for part of the overflow of the Arndt and Barnet guests. Later, when it was found more room space was needed Peter Miller, the "merchant prince" and philanthropist of that far-away period, whose residence was on the site of the present Orr Store building, adjoining the Arndt Tavern on the east, permitted a doorway to be cut through his third story brick wall, to afford further space for sleeping apartments.

Mr. Arndt, with the assistance of "Chippy White", who was a marvel in the practice of the art of genuine hospitality, and the young man from Ross Commons who was a valuable asset, gained a great reputation as a tavern-keeper during his tavern or hotel career while on the corner of Northampton and Bank Streets, the site of the Easton National Bank.

About 1809, "JACOB ARNDT, JR.," was the proprietor of a tavern in Center Square on the site of the present Huntington Hotel.

This tavern was a two-story stone building of blue lime-stone. It was a favorite resort of many patrons from Brooklyn.

"Chippy" White was assistant manager for a short time. He soon learned that his best interests demanded a place of his own.

"JOHN STILLWAGON'S INN"

About 1760, the site was on the north side of Center Square, on the former site of Kahn's Art Store, as of 1927, and west of the present site of Deiley's Market. This was the resort of a few rather se-

lect patrons from New Jersey, since the facilities for real comfort appeared to be limited.

"EASTON HOTEL"

Popularly known as "White's Hotel". It was located on the north side of the Public Square, on the site of Deiley's Market of today, which building was erected about 1807 by William W. White, after he severed his connection with the hotel of Jacob Arndt. He did this to meet the demand of his friends and patrons.

Mr. White, as proprietor of his new venture, was assisted by his most competent wife. These were the grandparents of William W. Cottingham, Superintendent of the Public Schools of our city (Easton) for the unexampled period of sixty (60) years—a term of service we are sure is without precedent.

Mr. White was a most jovial landlord, big-hearted and kindly. His hotel became the popular resort of this section because of its many fine qualities, and it attracted large groups of Philadelphia's best people, who would spend the entire season with him. It was a place where men and women of refinement delighted to linger, at times indefinitely.

Many people from Williamsport, Milton, and Wilkes-Barre would find their way over the new turnpike, (called the Wilkes-Barre and Easton Turnpike) so recently completed, with quite a sojourn at "White's Hotel" in view; where they invariably found an unusual warmth of hospitality. The visits of these delighted patrons were often greatly lengthened. The title "Easton Hotel" was soon forgotten, and the name "White's Hotel," and "Chippie White's Tavern", became so natural that the name in this connection was famous, because it was the synonym of hospitality.

At this hotel Lafayette College was brought into being. President William Henry Harrison was entertained by Mr. White in 1836. Also Governor Ritner and the Secretary of our Commonwealth were the guests of Mr. White on September 10, 1837.

Stages would depart two and three times a week for New York at 4 A. M., requiring an entire day for the trip. It was always a great event. The return trip required the same time, and it was an event that added greatly to the entertainment and pleasure of our town's people. The incoming strangers, consisting possibly of five or six folks from New York or Philadelphia, would create nearly as

much wonder among the boys and girls, as well as among the grown ups, tho perhaps in lesser degree, as tho a zeppelin of 1930 was floating overhead thru the air. As late as 1847, no one ever dreamed of railroads or automobile travel.

"BULLY WACK"

Used as a lodging house and bar-room. We are not in the possession of data to say when it began business, but, just prior to 1848, it is our recollection that it was a very old place.

The building was owned by Anthony Ihrie. It was situated on the north side of the Public Square, where the first Express Company opened for business, with A. D. Hope as manager in 1854. This was the place for receiving and delivering all freight for Allentown, Bethlehem and Easton, after the completion of the C. R. R. of N. J., from New York to this point. After the arrival of goods for all places outside of Easton, the merchandise and other freight matter were delivered to their destination by a heavy two-horse wagon. Later it bore the title, "Hope's Express Co." It was located on the present site of the "Ready-to-wear" Shop.

"BULLY WACK" was the headquarters for a select clientele of young men of that time. Many of them were of our wealthiest families, who lived at a time when it was not the function or the position of a gentleman of social rank to engage in any kind of work.

"GOLDEN LAMB INN"

Was on the site of the present Drake & Company building, Pomfret Street (now Third Street).

This was a very old house of entertainment. The earliest date of its life, we are unable to ascertain. It was built by an ancestor of Peter Ihrie. It may have been his father or his uncle; that is, Peter, Sr., or Conrad, Sr. In their time, it must have been a most successful venture, as its popularity was without question. It was at an early day conducted by Conrad Ihrie, Jr., and later by Peter Ihrie, Jr., apparently successful Tavern-keepers.

Later, James Hackett was a fine entertainer of the "GOLDEN LAMB". He was the grandfather of the late Holland Hackett and William Hackett, both of Easton, Pa. James Hackett, as a landlord of the "GOLDEN LAMB", was an expert in his method of entertainment, which won the respect and love of the guests who pa-

tronized his Inn. Season after season he could count on welcoming his old customers.

Mr. Hackett, after his success at the "GOLDEN LAMB", eventually transferred his interests, and for many years was the landlord of the "RISING SUN", and was very successful.

About this time, the "GOLDEN LAMB" title was changed to the "AMERICAN HOTEL", with Melchoir Horn, Jr., as its first landlord in 1833. A more affable and courteous gentleman would be difficult to find. He was perfectly fitted for the important post.

In 1839, Martin Van Buren was entertained at the "AMERICAN HOTEL", right after Mr. ————— Omstead became its new proprietor.

A little later, in the early 1840's, David Conner was in charge—a most competent hotel proprietor—and his elegant wife and daughter played a big part in the social, as well as the practical affairs of their hotel.

The "AMERICAN HOTEL" stood high among a substantial class of people, who had occasion to visit Easton on business or for pleasure and recreation. With them the "AMERICAN HOTEL" was a shibboleth, where one could abide in complete comfort and contentment.

The "AMERICAN HOTEL" in 1851 was the birthplace of the "FIRST NATIONAL BANK" of our city. In our later years, this institution developed and grew into the "FIRST NATIONAL BANK AND TRUST COMPANY". If the gentlemen who attended those several meetings in the parlors of the old "AMERICAN HOTEL" in 1851 could see the size of the financial infant they helped to bring into a living institution as it is today, surely they would be so amazed and astounded as to pronounce it a dream. The details of the first thot of organizing a new Bank in Easton would be spicy, if not interesting, reading.

In the later years, Jesse Lines became the proprietor of the "AMERICAN HOTEL". He was the proper successor to those who preceded him in maintaining the high reputation of the old "AMERICAN HOTEL".

"SPRING GARDEN TAVERN"

In 1828, the site was at the corner of Spring Garden and Pomfret Streets, on the site of the present Y. M. C. A. building.

Was built, 1791 to 1793, as the home of the Hon. Samuel Sitgreaves, and was at that time called "SITGREAVES MANSION". He lived in this home until he finished his dwelling at Northampton and Sitgreaves Streets, which required five years to complete. It was sixty feet front, occupying the present site of the three-story properties of Abel's Confectionery, Heiberger's Shoe Store and Montague's Stationery Store. He moved into this new home in 1817, which was called "SITGREAVES' FOLLY".

During the years that this great man with his gigantic intellect lived in his new home, he brought the Misses Ralston from England, at his private expense, to conduct a select school in the original home on Spring Garden Street. That was in 1825-1826-1827. He passed away in 1827.

About 1828, Conrad Bittenbender opened the "SPRING GARDEN HOTEL", which blossomed into a successful venture. It was a great resort for cotillion parties and quadrille dancing.

The visit of the military companies from Philadelphia was always a great event. The Militia made their headquarters at this hotel. Their bright uniforms and soldierly bearing attracted the attention of the young girls, who often regarded it an honor to receive the escort of a beautifully groomed soldier boy, and many hearts must have been won. A number of these girls lived to become mothers, grandmothers and great-grandmothers, and some of their descendants are living in Philadelphia and in Easton today.

About 1832 or 1833, Abraham Horn, Jr., succeeded Mr. Bittenbender. He early introduced frequent literary entertainments, and invited neighborhood guests along with his hotel patrons to readings of poetry and prose of the best possible selections. There were also finely selected recitations of a refined and unusual nature. These entertainments were of a high order and appeared to delight the guests, who were not tardy in giving expression to their sense of appreciation. Mr. Horn was fortunate in having talented daughters and a son, Solon, who was especially fitted to perform his part in a literary entertainment of such a novel character. His wonderful sister Anna, so gifted and so brilliant, was always ready to treat her father's guests with her best.

In 1836, the hotel was turned into a private boarding school by the Misses Lorraine. This lasted until the middle 1840's, when the

Was built 1791 to 1795, as the home of the Hon. General St. graves, and was at that time called "STIGRAVES MANSION". He lived in this home until he finished his dwelling at Northampton and Stigraves Street, which required five years to complete. It was forty feet front, occupying the present site of the three-story property of Abel's Confectionery, Heiberg's Shoe Store and Montgomery Stationers' Store. He moved into this new home in 1817, which was called "STIGRAVES FOLLY".

During the years that this great man with his gigantic intellect lived in his new home, he brought the Misses Rathbone from England, at his private expense, to conduct a select school in the original home on Spring Garden Street. That was in 1825-1826-1827. He passed away in 1827.

About 1828, Conrad Brandender opened the "SPRING GARDEN HOTEL", which blossomed into a successful venture. It was a great resort for cotillion parties and quadrille dancing.

The visit of the military companies from Philadelphia was always a great event. The militia made their headquarters at the hotel. Their bright uniforms and soldierly bearing attracted the attention of the young girls, who often regarded it an honor to receive the escort of a beautifully uniformed soldier boy, and many hearts have been won. A number of these girls lived to become mothers, grandmothers and great-grandmothers, and some of their descendants are living in Philadelphia and in Boston today.

About 1832 or 1833, Abraham Horn, Jr., succeeded Mr. Watson. He early introduced frequent literary entertainments and invited neighborhood guests along with his hotel patrons to readings of poetry and prose of the best possible selection. There were also finely selected recitations of a refined and unusual nature. These entertainments were of a high order and appeared to delight the guests, who were not tardy in giving expression to their sense of appreciation. Mr. Horn was fortunate in having talented daughters and a son, Solon, who was especially fitted to perform his part in a literary entertainment of such a novel character. His wonderful sister Anna, so gifted and so brilliant, was always ready to treat her

In 1836, the hotel
the Misses Lorraine.

"Institute for Young Ladies" opened under the direction of Prof. Thomas W. Cann, assisted by Mrs. Cann and Miss Godenow. It was closed in 1854. It was then occupied as a residence by Charles Rodenbough and his family; later, it was used as an annex to the "Karlton Hotel".

"THE RISING SUN TAVERN"

Located during a very early period on the corner of Pomfret and Spring Garden Streets, opposite the Sitgreaves' Mansion, on the present site of the "KARLDON HOTEL".

The first landlord, of whom we can find any record, was James Hackett. As a man, he was held in the highest esteem. He was an ideal manager of a tavern, and possessed of a peculiar faculty as an entertainer. The tavern never suffered for want of patronage. The building was an old colonial limestone type—very pleasing.

As the years rolled by, Mr. Hackett was stricken with blindness. Although handicapped by the loss of his sight, he was the very essence of fortitude and patient endurance. He had a helpmate who was remarkable for her executive ability. His wife was Catharine Deshler, daughter of Adam Deshler, and Deborah Wagner, who was the daughter of David Wagner, Judge of Northampton County (1791 to 1796). His son, Judge Daniel Wagner, succeeded his father on the Bench for 39 years. They were among our early settlers, and were the ancestors of the late Holland and William Hackett.

About this time the hotel fell into the care of Jacob Hagenbuch, who changed the name of his tavern to "BLACK HORSE". During his management he did a thriving business, maintaining the high reputation of the "BLACK HORSE TAVERN".

About 1853, Joseph Shortz bought the property. He tore down the old stone building, and rebuilt it with brick on a very much larger and more pretentious scale and became the proprietor of the new hotel, which was called "THE UNITED STATES". It became a very popular hotel.

In the 1860's, Samuel Hayden was the new landlord, who kept the "UNITED STATES" in the front rank of hostelries for many years. Many Lafayette college functions of various characters, and other assemblages were held here for many years as a convenient and logical place.

Upon the death of Mr. Hayden, his son, Howard Hayden, assumed control with wonderful success. After his death, William Kuebler purchased the property and called it the "KARLDON"—a memorial to his two sons, Karl and Donald. He very greatly enlarged the property and improved it, and kept up the high reputation of the hotel till his recent death. It is now operated by his estate.

"COURT HOUSE HOTEL"

Since about 1848, was located on the Bethlehem Road (now Walnut Street), opposite the Court House.

It was built early in the 1830's by Rev. John P. Hecht, D.D. as a residence, and occupied by him and his family until 1849. He was the pastor of the Lutheran congregation in 1815, when they were joint worshippers and owners of the Pomfret Street (now Third Street) Church since 1776. He continued to be their pastor when they withdrew from the German Reformed Congregation and built on Ferry Street, in 1832, the present St. John's Church edifice, until 1845, when he severed his connection. He was a great scholar and a learned man, being very proficient in German, Latin, Hebrew and English. He was beloved by a large circle of admiring friends, and was an intimate friend of Gov. Wolf, Dr. Samuel D. Gross and many other learned men.

"JACKSON HOTEL"

From 1805 to 1828, or earlier, the site was on Northampton Street, on the site of 421 Northampton Street, 1923-1928. It was a popular place for select dance parties and balls. William Shouse was the proprietor. Later it was on the south corner of Northampton and Fourth Streets.

The "AMERICAN EAGLE", an Easton newspaper (1799-1805), gives some vivid accounts of many social events at the best "TAVERNS" and "INNS" at that early time, in which the ancestors of many of our families participated, whose descendants are living in Easton today, 1930. The girls who indulge in such frivolities today are called "Flappers" in some spirit of derision or perhaps scorn.

"THE GREEN TREE INN"

During 1775 or thereabout, site was at 420 to 428 Northampton

Street. Nothing is known of its earliest history. John Opp is reputed to have been an early operator of this "Inn". Mr. Opp had two stage lines in successful operation. One was between Philadelphia and the "Green Tree Inn", via the "King's Highway". Most of his passengers were to be guests of the "Golden Lamb" Tavern. His other line was operated from Easton to New York City and return. Most of these people were guests of "The Green Tree".

Mr. Opp finally retired to private life with a handsome competence.

Adam Heckman was proprietor in 1817; and, later, William Shouse, till 1841.

We are not sure when the title of the Hotel was changed to the "FRANKLIN HOUSE", but it is safe to assume the change was made about the time Samuel Shouse, the new proprietor, assumed possession in 1841.

While William Shouse was the landlord of "THE GREEN TREE INN", Governor Ritner and several other dignitaries of the State were entertained in 1835 at his "Inn". Under the management of Samuel Shouse and Mary Opp, his devoted and capable wife, his hotel soon won a reputation throughout the state as an unusually fine hostelry with boundless hospitality.

Horace Greeley, during the campaign when he was the candidate of the Democratic Party for President, made a wonderful speech from the balcony of the "FRANKLIN HOUSE". His address was a memorable one, delivered before an audience of many thousands in the street below.

A very interesting historical romance in the life of Samuel Shouse and Mary Opp, his wife, as "Innkeepers", is too lengthy to include in this paper, already too tedious and prosaic.

"WHITE HORSE TAVERN"

Site was on Hamilton Street (now Fourth Street). Christopher Engle was proprietor. He built it in 1801. Peter Roe, who was very efficient, was assistant manager.

Mr. Roe married Mr. Engle's daughter Sarah. Mr. Roe and Sarah Engle, his wife, with Mr. Engle made a fine team to operate the "WHITE HORSE TAVERN". Mr. Roe's daughter Jane was

also a worker, and thro their combined efforts they won trade from Milton, Berwick, Wilkes-Barre and Williamsport.

The Wilkes-Barre Turnpike was opened about this time, which provided a road for the hundreds of farmers and dealers to come to Easton as the only market for their produce and the great crops of grain, which were hauled here by teams. Hundreds of wagon loads of grain were a common sight on Hamilton Street. With the wheat, rye, corn, and barley sold, the farmers could then buy and have good loads of merchandise, etc., including a fine proportion of whiskey, which they would obtain by purchase or trade from Easton's eight or nine distillers busy on the Bushkill Creek,—a legitimate and honorable business at that time. The "WHITE HORSE TAVERN" also enjoyed a large trade with the nearby farmers. As a tavern keeper, "Boney" Barnet, as he was quite widely known, had a host of friends thruout Eastern Pennsylvania.

About 1850 or a little earlier, Mr. Engle sold the entire property to Edward Barnet with the tavern rights. The name was then changed to the "BARNET HOUSE", with the same line of patronage for many years. Upon the death of some of the Barnet family, the tavern was discontinued. Eventually the large property was sold to the Bell Telephone Company, which erected there a magnificent building as their Exchange.

"ADAM YOHE, SR. INN"

In 1755 or perhaps earlier, the site was on the corner of Hamilton (now Fourth) and Northampton Streets, on the present site of the Northampton National Bank.

It was a popular resort for a high class of people. It must have been a privilege for Governor Hamilton of the English Province to frequently spend some time with Mr. Yohe. He made his headquarters at Yohe's Inn in 1758 during the holding of the Indian Treaties. Many distinguished people visiting Easton at this early day would take delight in making their home at this "Inn". The English deed to Mr. Yohe's property refers to him as the "Inn Holder".

History tells us that, upon the retirement of Mr. Yohe, Sr., his son, Adam Yohe, Jr., took his father's place at the bar, some time before 1782.

Adam Yohe, Sr., was among the earliest settlers in Northampton County, making the new town of Easton his home. A valuable

deed now in possession of one of his descendants, Mrs. Oliver Meyers, discloses this fact. Mr. Yohe has a great many other descendants in Easton today. They can feel justly proud of an ancestor who did so much toward blazing the way for a place of such safety and beauty in which to live.

In the course of the years of development of the country, our primitive little hamlet, always ready to adopt the newer comforts and conveniences, grew, with the change of habits of living, more modern in thought, social aspirations, education, and methods of culture, dress, and entertainment.

The "Hotels", better known as "Inns" in those far-away days, frequently changed the proprietorship.

Upon Mr. Yohe's son, Adam Jr., evidently retiring from the hotel business, his successor changed the name of the "Inn" to "Jackson Hotel", the old "Jackson Inn" having ceased business. William Shouse was at this period contemplating passing the "Green Tree Inn" over to his brother, Samuel Shouse, and operating the "Jackson Hotel" himself. The exact date of this transaction is not known. This new management became popular at once, and attracted the patronage of our best people.

The Historical Society has among its relics an invitation to Miss Eliza Herster from Mr. John C. Mixsell to attend a Ball to be held on the night of January 8, 1829. The Ball was to be held in honor of Gen. Andrew Jackson's victory over the English at New Orleans.

The writer recalls most clearly the imposing figure of John Herster, a leading citizen of Easton, when he was over ninety years old, having been born in 1758. He was the father of Eliza Herster, who became the wife of John Tindall. Their daughter, Mary Tindall, married Mark T. Warne. These in turn had an only child, Mrs. Robert K. Buckman, who has been a life long resident of Easton.

The above John Tindall was a brother of Mrs. Samuel Drinkhouse and Mrs. James W. Long. The last three named were children of Ralph Tindall, an early settler, very active in organizing the Old First Presbyterian Church of Easton in 1798 and 1811.

JACKSON BALL.

THE honor of Miss Eliza Herster's company is respectfully solicited at a BALL, to be held at the Jackson Hotel, on the night of the 8th of January, 1829.

J. WEYGANDT,
DAVID D. WAGENER,
WILLIAM BIXLER,
DAVID BARNET,
A. E. BROWN, } MANAGERS.

Easton, December 20, 1828.

John C. Mixsell's Compliments to Miss E. Herster and solicits the pleasure of gallanting her to the Jackson Ball.

VICTORY OF NEW-ORLEANS.

The honor of Miss Eliza Herster's company is respectfully solicited at a BALL, to be held at William Shouse's Hotel, on the evening of the eighth of January, eighteen hundred and thirty.

F. A. FICKARDT,
A. H. REEDER,
C. P. LANE,
J. P. HETRICH,
T. R. SITGREAVES, } Managers.

John Titus's Compliments to Miss Herster, respectfully soliciting the pleasure of waiting upon her that evening.

Monday Afternoon.

Since the invitation to the Ball, "to be held at "William Shouse's Hotel", was a "Jackson Ball", given to commemorate the wonderful victory at New Orleans of General Jackson, it is justifiable to conclude that the Ball would be held at a Hotel bearing the general's name, and not at the "Green Tree", of which Mr. Shouse so recently was the proprietor.

"OPP'S INN"

In 1760, was located at the corner of Northampton and Hamilton (now Fourth) Streets, on the site of the Lafayette Hotel of today.

Jacob Opp was a native of Chur-Paltz on the Rhine, Germany. For an appropriate sign, he early had made an image of wood, carved to resemble in color and form a full-dressed, life-size Indian Chief. This attracted the Indians, then in large numbers in the town and surrounding country. Thus he secured their good will and their patronage, and added largely to the popularity of his "TAV-ERN". For many years this Indian Chief stood in a conspicuous position in front and did yeoman service.

Mr. Opp was an enthusiastic supporter of the Revolutionary War, ever ready to serve his adopted country in any capacity, civil or military. He was public spirited, and his wife was a model of hospitality and kindly sympathy, alive to the betterment of this primitive village of scarcely 300 people.

In connection with the military service in the Wyoming Valley, all our history makes record of the fact that since the Indians and the Hessians were far more troublesome and menacing than the British, greater vigilance was necessary. This made it the scene of the most important campaign of the Revolutionary War, for a successful and deadly final stroke was necessary to make absolutely certain that this part of the struggle would culminate in a complete and lasting victory for the Continental Army.

At about this period, Washington no doubt was most anxiously concerned as to the result of his carefully prepared plans for this last military effort. It was just at the time when the only money in circulation was Continental paper money. All gold and silver had disappeared so completely that even General Washington became discouraged and disheartened, and he remarked "That it took a wagon-load of money to buy a wagon-load of provisions". In 1779 and early in 1780, while General Sullivan was in the saddle, carrying out Washington's orders, this condition was embarrassing in the ex-

treme. About this time Washington sent a group of officers on horseback to Easton to obtain information as to the work of Sullivan's army. It was a four days' trip from Philadelphia to Easton and Jacob Opp's Inn was the place at which these officers stopped for rest and refreshment.

The cost of the entertainment while at "Opp's Inn" for the refreshments was \$667.00 as per these details:

Nips of Toddy	\$ 10.00
Cash	8.00
Cash	12.00
One Bowl of Punch	30.00
" " " "	33.00
One Grog	5.00
Washing	49.00
One Bowl of Punch	30.00
One Grog	8.00
One Bowl of Punch	30.00
21 quarts Oats	62.00
Hay	90.00
12 meals of Victuals	260.00 (4 men)
Lading	40.00
	<hr/>
	\$667.00

Rec'd Pay't for the above,

(Signed) JACOB OPP,

Innkeeper.

In 1779, a dollar was worth sixteen cents. A little later in the same year, a dollar was worth only twelve cents. In 1780, a dollar was worth two cents, and, before the end of that year, it took ten (10) paper dollars to make a penny.

Butter was \$12.00 a pound.

Tea was \$90.00 a pound.

Sugar was \$10.00 a pound.

Beef was \$8.00 a pound.

Coffee was \$12.00 a pound.

A barrel of flour cost \$1,575.00.

Samuel Adams paid \$2,000 for a hat and an ordinary suit of clothes.

These depressed times bred more or less contempt for the continental money, and gave rise to the origin of the phrase so commonly used at that time, and heard frequently even to this day when a person wishes to denote worthless value—"Not worth a Continental".

While the above remarkable depreciation in the Continental dollar appears to us (in 1930) as almost incredible, nevertheless it is historically true.

Fifteen years later, in 1794, at Mr. Opp's Inn, when the same money became stabilized, the purchasing value of a dollar so increased that the same accommodations could be had **for less than they would cost today (1930).**

Upon the death of Mr. Opp in 1805, the "Inn" was bought and operated by Christian Butz. The population of Easton at that time was 600. In 1815, Mr. Butz's son, Jacob, became the proprietor, and later, in 1840, his brother, Michael Butz. About 1850, Daniel Whitesell became the proprietor, and changed the name to the "CENTRAL HOTEL". Andrew Whitesell became the proprietor about 1865, and later, in 1906, James Shiveley.

As the quaint little town developed slowly, Mr. Opp, at his private expense, built the first pavement, or sidewalk, of plank. It extended from his tavern to the Public Square. At that early time it must have been an enterprising piece of civic work.

Jacob Hoffman and his wife were early emigrants to America, date October 2nd, 1727. Their daughter, Anna Maria Hoffman, was the wife of Jacob Opp, the Inn-keeper. **Five** daughters were born to them, in the original stone building, (their home and tavern) that occupied this Historic Corner, where the "Lafayette Hotel" now stands. Of the five daughters, **two** died very young. **Maria Eve Opp** married Judge Daniel Wagner, who was on the Judicial Bench of the Northampton County Courts for thirty-nine years. They were the parents of the Hon. David D. Wagner, who was a member of Congress, and President of the "Easton Bank", now the "Easton National Bank".

2036166

Elizabeth Opp married Abraham Horn, Jr., who was one of six brothers serving in the War of 1812, and was distinguished for his bravery. Later he became celebrated as the landlord of the "Spring Garden" Hotel, thru his employment of unusual art in the entertainment of his guests.

Catharine Opp married Christian Bixler, 3rd, also a very active citizen. He was ever ready to do his big part in every effort for the growth and best development of our primitive town.

The Opps are ancestors of very many of Easton's families of today.

During the early days of Easton's history, about 1740 to 1790, our little town was the meeting place for many Indians from the surrounding country. At times the few people that lived here were alarmed for their safety. Reports frequently would reach the town that the Indians contemplated trouble. But, as a rule, the Indians were harmless, tho they loved rum and would get thoroughly intoxicated.

It was almost a daily occurrence for "Opp's Inn" to have the Indians frequent their place for pastime, rum and possibly a few eatables. Mr. Opp had the faculty of knowing how to handle the savages and preventing trouble.

The "Opp" sign on the front of his tavern, an "Indian Chief", appeared to make them feel that Mr. Opp was their real friend. They felt flattered at the appearance of such a sign.

It is safe to say that the great Teedyuscung and other Indian celebrities were frequent visitors at this inn for rum and eatables. Indians of all types, beyond any question, frequently visited every "Tavern" or "Inn", to find rum of any kind. It is reasonable to suppose that the Early Taverns, between the years 1740 to possibly 1790, did a fine rum business with the Savages, who as a rule were perfectly harmless. A custom of the average Red Man was to stop at a door step and play with and fondle little children. He always took particular delight in this child-entertainment in different parts of our town when it was only a mere village. It was the display of a kindness that under ordinary circumstances would not be expected. On the other hand the Savages were quick to resent a wrong, real and at times imaginary, but felt complimented when they were permitted by the inhabitants to engage in conversation with them.

"GOLDEN SWAN TAVERN"

About 1775, this tavern was located at 460 Northampton Street on the present site of Kiefer's Hardware Store.

Jacob Opp, Jr. (son of Michael Opp) was an early landlord prior to 1813, when he settled in Dansville, N. Y. There was great grief in the town when he died in 1884.

Thomas Seibring was the landlord till 1817. A Mr. — Herster succeeded him, and was the landlord till 1830. John Burt, who was very active in public affairs, became the landlord in 1833. Henry Windt, who was a very active and efficient proprietor, was the landlord from about 1875 to 1895.

Theophile Cazenove, an agent for a French Land Company, was on a tour of observation, and stopped at Opp's Inn, the sign of the "GOLDEN SWAN", which provided very good lodging. This Frenchman was a man of distinctive tastes, and traveled with a coach and four, a valet, a coachman, and postilion. He also had an extra saddle horse along for a change when he became weary of his coach. At this stage of his journey Cazenove's party reckoned three men and three horses, and Mr. Opp charged him about \$3.90 for the night's lodging, no doubt including supper and breakfast. Jacob Opp was no profiteer.

Mr. Cazenove's opinion of the "GOLDEN SWAN" was that the town of Easton could be proud of it. As he always chose the best hotels, and was a critical judge of the service rendered, we may judge that Opp's "GOLDEN SWAN" Hotel was a credit to Easton in its day.

"TOD HARTZELL'S RETREAT"

As a boy and a young man, it is an easy matter to recall this Retreat, located on Church Street, north side, midway between Second and Third Streets. It was the property of John Hartzell, popularly known as "Tod Hartzell". His was a resort that patrons of a refined class sought for seclusion and diversion as well as quiet. The establishment was of frame with a second story. The design was pure colonial. The building was painted white, with the clapboards of generous width, the window and door trims of green, and doors of colonial panels. This house, framed in its well-kept lawn, became a model of good taste, a resort for the most fastidious. Mr. Hartzell was a courteous landlord. His unbounded hospitality drew to him a choice patronage, and he prospered. Mr. Hartzell was in business some years before and during the late 1840's and in the 1850's.

In the early part of the 1800's, prior to this time, Durham boats were used very extensively on the Delaware River in transporting goods and merchandise of every kind to and from Philadelphia. This was the only means of transportation connecting Easton with the outside world. John Hartzell was very ambitious. His efficiency in the operation of these boats as Durham boat master, won him many words of praise and commendation from his superiors. When the railroads appeared these boats became little used, and in time completely discarded. It was when Mr. Hartzell realized the effect of the railroad competition from Philadelphia on the old river route that he turned his attention to establishing the above "Retreat".

"HOTEL EASTON"

Located at the corner of Northampton and Green Streets, was built by the people of Easton in 1927 and 1928. It is owned by a stock company with the Williams Brothers as managers.

Easton has reason to be proud of the "HOTEL EASTON". It is furnished and equipped in every detail with the most modern appliances for the entertainment of its guests, in a fashion commensurate with the times. The three Williams Brothers make a fine team for furnishing every comfort and satisfying the needs of the many hundreds of patrons that visit their hostelry weekly. It is a wonderful advance in the art of hotel equipment, management, and hospitality over the taverns and inns of a century ago.

From its very infancy, Easton has been noted for the number and excellence of its inns and hotels. This was due not only to its being the county seat but also to the wealth accumulated thru its numerous mills and distilleries.

The nine liquor distillers, who did a thriving business on the Bushkill Creek (originally Lehigh Creek) amassed fortunes. The products of their mills were disposed of promptly in various markets. Much of it was taken to Williamsport, Milton, Berwick and towns along the old Wilkes-Barre Turnpike line of travel. The Durham boat line to Philadelphia, Trenton and intermediate towns on the River Delaware, did a large share of the whiskey purchases for their customers, and was a profitable market for Easton products at that time. In those early days it was a perfectly honorable and legitimate business, conducted by the men who were our best citizens, always ready to do their big part in every civic development, and espe-

cially generous and sympathetic in cases of the sick and the poor, and in the effort to aid the unfortunate and the suffering. They were, without exception, connected with the various churches of Easton, as loyal members and liberal and cheerful supporters of all kinds of work their church was called upon to perform. In fact, they were among the most upright gentlemen and outstanding citizens of the old town of Easton.

It is quite natural to assume that some of these liquor manufacturers had an indirect, if not a direct, connection, with some of the old time "Taverns" or "Inns". This is only an inference, and it may be an unfair judgment.

Hotelkeepers at some time in our history were:

Widow Nungessor	Henry Snyder
John Rinker	Isaac Sidman
Edward Rinker	John Shoch
Paul Miller	Jacob Hempt
William Craig	Jacob Diehl
John Anderson	Frederick Nungessor
Matthias Miller	Edward Seip
Christian Nungessor	

